

THE GULL



Golden Gate Audubon Society Berkeley, California Volume 71 Number 4 April 1989

CHARGED BY A GORILLA

Watch out Sigourney Weaver! Our own George Peyton (not in the cast of *Gorillas in the Mist*) was charged by a chest-beating silverback male Mountain Gorilla while leading a birding tour this past fall in Rwanda. Unfortunately, he could not add it to his bird list, but does have slides to prove the encounter, which ended with the gorilla only a few feet away.

For hors d'oeuvres George will show pictures of a number of species of lemurs from Madagascar, including the rare Indri, as black, white, wooly and loveable as a Panda. There will also be scenes from the Masai Mara in Kenya, including a pack of wild hunting dogs with 21 young pups.

And of course there will be plenty of slides of those pesky birds, with particular emphasis on the unusual species found only in Madagascar.

To enjoy this unique armchair nature tour of Madagascar, Kenya and Rwanda come to the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 13.

It is also the night of the drawing for the many prizes of the Wetlands Benefit. Of course, tickets for the drawing will be available at the meeting.

—JOELLA BUFFA

STATE OF THE BAY CONFERENCE

Will life in the San Francisco Bay disappear in the 21st Century? Will toxic "hot spots" continue to escalate, making the Bay uninhabitable for fish and wildlife, unusable for recreation? What are the major issues and concerns we face in relation to the Bay? These pertinent topics and others will be the focus of the Fourth Annual State of the Bay Conference, A Vision for the Future. It will be held on Saturday, April 29 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in San Francisco at the Holiday Inn Hotel, 1500 Van Ness Avenue.

Bay Area community leaders and decision makers from the environmental field, industry, trade, recreation and government will address these critical issues

(more)

ANNUAL MEETING.....	62
MURPHY'S MOB—BIRDATHON	62
BOUVERIE VISIT.....	54
"VINTAGE BIRDS	57

at the morning session. They will focus on their future goals, contributions and commitments to the Bay and how their visions will be realized.

The keynote speaker for the event, Director of the National Park Service and highly respected conservationist, William Penn Mott, Jr., will address the Bay's future.

During afternoon workshops conference attendees will learn from experts about immediate challenges and how to visualize and improve the future of the Bay. They will also hear alternative viewpoints and discuss how to balance the needs of the people in relation to the needs of the Bay. Topics include such issues as dredging and disposal, fresh water flow, fisheries management, water policy, pollutants, wetlands protection, and climatic changes: the greenhouse effect, sea rise and drought conditions.

As part of the day's activities, a special environmental award will be made to a business or organization for outstanding contribution to the Bay in 1988.

The conference concludes with a call to action by Congresswoman Barbara Boxer, *The Challenge Ahead*.

Tickets for the conference are \$40. Lunch is available for pre-registered participants and costs \$12. Pre-registration must be received no later than April 26. For registration information please call Joan Patton at 441-5970. The sponsor of the conference is the San Francisco Bay Chapter, Oceanic Society. GGAS is a co-sponsor.

FIELD TRIPS CALENDAR

Saturday, April 1—Bodega Bay. See March *Gull* for details.

Sunday, April 2—Tilden Regional Park (Beginner's Trip). See March *Gull* for details.

Saturday, April 8,—Bothe-Napa State Park (Beginners' Trip). See March *Gull* for details.

Saturday, April 8—See page 61.

Wednesday, April 12—Mini-trip to Sunol Regional Park. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Ranger station parking lot inside the park. Take Hwy. 580 east, watch for the turnoff to Hwy. 680 near Dublin. Take Hwy. 680 south, turn off at Calaveras Rd., go left, follow the sign to Sunol Park. We may see Lark Sparrows, Golden Eagles, Northern Orioles and resident birds of the area. Bring lunch. Rain cancels trip. Leaders: Anna Wilcox (351-9301) and Jean-Marie Spoelman. \$(✓)

Saturday, April 15—Birdathon. See Murphy's Mob on page 62 for details.

Saturday, April 15—Bouverie Preserve. See page 54 for details.

Saturday, April 22—Mines Rd., Livermore. Meet at 8 a.m. in the parking lot of the Nob Hill Shopping Center at So. Livermore and Pacific in Livermore. From there we will drive on mountain roads to Patterson. Bring food and liquids. We can expect to see Northern Orioles, Lewis' Woodpeckers, and Phainopeplas in this habitat. Roadrunners and Wild Turkeys have also been seen on this trip. Those who want to can continue with the group until dark. Leader: Art Edwards (447-3720). (✓)

Saturday, April 29—Birding by Ear in Briones Regional Park. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the west entrance to Briones Regional Park off Bear Creek Rd. Take Hwy. 24 to the Orinda turnoff. Exit and take San Pablo Dam Road northwest about two miles to Bear Creek Rd. Turn right and drive about 2 miles to the Briones Regional Park entrance on the right. Meet in the parking area on the left just beyond the fee booth. Be prepared to hike five miles and carry lunch and liquids through hilly terrain. Be sure to bring a hat or sunscreen. We will study the songs and calls of common breeding birds of the East Bay. Leader: Dave Cornman (825-2106). (\$).

Sunday, April 30—"Peep Show", shoreline north of airport. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Sam Trans parking lot in So. San Francisco. From San Francisco take Hwy. 101 south to the San Bruno Ave. and North Access Rd. exit. Follow North Access Rd. around over 101 and continue past the stop light one quarter mile, then turn left toward the Sam Trans bus yard. Park in the public access lot. Bring coffee (if desired) and a bite to eat as we study thousands of shorebirds. Leaders: Alan Hopkins (664-0983) and Dennis Beale.

Sunday, May 7—Wildcat Canyon Regional Park. Meet at 8 a.m. by the Arlington Clubhouse on Arlington Blvd. (next to the tennis courts between Brewster Dr. and Thors Bay Rd.) in El Cerrito. From there we will make a short drive to the starting point. Pack lunch and liquids for a six mile hike. We will encounter hills as we walk a transect of the canyon to bird in brushlands, oak woodlands, riparian streamsides and grasslands. We anticipate seeing a few late migrants and a good representation of nesting birds of the East Bay. We will also identify common trees of the area. People with allergies should be aware that we will

encounter grassy conditions. Hiking boots advisable. The trip will end at 2 p.m. Leader: Malcolm Sproul (376-8945)

Saturday, May 7—Point Reyes National Seashore. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Park Headquarters (one mile west of Olema). We will car shuttle to Five Brooks Stable trailhead and hike back five miles through the Vedanda property looking for songbirds. Bring lunch. Leaders: Gloria Markowitz and Ken Ackerman (892-2910) (✓).

Wednesday, May 10—Mini-trip to Briones Regional Park. Meet at the park at 9:30 a.m. Take Hwy. 24 east to the Orinda turnoff. Turn left and follow San Pablo Dam Rd. about two miles to Bear Creek Rd. turnoff. Turn right and drive about two miles to Briones Regional Park entrance on the right.

Wildcat Canyon Dr., through Tilden Park (from the top of Spruce St.) will also take you to San Pablo Dam Rd. and the Bear Creek Rd. junction.

We should see Northern Orioles, Lark Sparrows, Ash-throated Flycatchers and Lazuli Buntings. Leaders: Anna Wilcox (351-9301) and Jean-Marie Spoelman.

Saturday, May 13—"Vintage Birds." See page 57 for details.

Trips marked with \$ go to parks or other sites that require an entrance fee. Carpooling arrangements will be attempted for trips marked (✓).

Problems: If for any reason you have difficulty getting in touch with a field trip leader, or can take a passenger on a trip, call Russ Wilson (524-2399).

—FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

OBSERVATIONS

Observations Editor **Helen Green** is away birding this month. You can expect an expanded report in *The GULL* for May.

AUDUBON CANYON RANCH

A reminder: Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets nesting activity is on view now and until Sunday, July 16. Open to the public on weekends and holidays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tours by special arrangement during the week by calling 868-9244. The Ranch is at 4900 Hwy. 1, Stinson Beach.

CHALLENGES ABOUND

The drought and pollution of last summer—on top of continuing environmental problems—have made the environment a hot issue. Leaders of conservation groups agree that they are seeing a surge of public interest in environmental subjects. *National Geographic* and *Time* have devoted entire issues to the global environment. And our membership recruitment department reports a sudden increase in responses to Audubon direct-mail appeals. Our challenge now is to encourage and harness this interest and put it to work defending the natural world.

Toward that end, we've made some terrific additions to our field staff, which will be noticed by those of you involved in chapter activities. Dana Kokubun is in place in Hawaii as the result of an earmarked grant. Tom Shoemaker, a former chapter leader, activist, and environmental consultant replaces Pam Crocker-Davis in the Washington State office. David Miller, a talented organizer and former director of Great Lakes United, is the new vice-president for the reopened Northeast regional office, based in the New York State capital. Finally, Brooks Yeager, formerly with the Sierra Club, now heads our Capitol Hill office. Brooks is especially knowledgeable in energy and public lands issues and comes to Audubon with tremendous political skills.

One of the first tasks facing Brooks will be to push for effective acid rain legislation. Last year's Congress adjourned before an acceptable package could make it to the Senate floor. The new Senate Majority Leader, George Mitchell, has vowed to get a bill passed this year, but it will be up to our activists to make sure it meets environmentally sound standards.

On a related front, I recently met with Canada's new environmental minister and its new ambassador to the United States. They reaffirmed their government's commitment to fighting acid rain pollution on both sides of the border. Add to that the continued success of our Citizens Acid Rain Monitoring Network in bringing the reality of acid rain to light and you can see why there is a little more hope for progress in 1989.

NAS has tough fundraising goals this year that we are working hard to achieve. We are staying within our budget on the expense side. But the cruel fact of accounting is that we must raise \$1.5 million more each year *just to stay even with inflation*. That is quite a challenge. Your continuing membership, along with whatever additional support you can give, are a big help. Together, we are making a real difference in the protection of our natural environment—from the wetland in your neighborhood to the ozone shield above us all.

—PETER A. A. BERLE, NAS

WILD BIRDS

One of the most attractive publications that GGAS receives in exchange for *The GULL* is *WILD BIRDS* which comes from the Wild Bird Society of Japan. The illustrations are strikingly good. We welcome interested members making use of the file of these handsome periodicals. Recently, this journal has thoughtfully included a supplement which excerpts selected articles in English translation.

OPINION: Debating on Scientific Basis

Recent debate over the advancement of the hunting season has proved the necessity of scientific basis for Japan's hunting administration. For us, who call for nature conservation, it has also raised some questions to solve and tasks to carry out, such as:

"How much concrete data can we provide?"

"Is methodology for surveys and research closely examined?"

"Is analysis correctly done?"

"Are the ones who conduct the surveys thoroughly trained?"

"Are enough materials compiled?"

Especially, we find it necessary to compile data on how wild birds live in

their habitat. For this purpose, WBSJ has established a research center. In the future, we plan to make it one of the bases in bird research that produces concrete data to be fully utilized in the debates based on science.

SOMETIMES IT SOUNDS FAMILIAR**ACTIVITIES:**

The Environment Agency, deciding to advance the beginning date of hunting season in northeast Japan, abruptly made inquiries to related Governors. It is an enforcement of advancement without even a single counter-argument against our objection, saying "political decision is prior to everything else".

The Agency that is supposed to be in



charge of wildlife protection carries out an unscientific administration that goes against wildlife protection. For nearly ten years, EA has failed to accumulate data, and therefore has neglected to carry out its tasks such as deciding when and what to hunt and not to hunt, what to prohibit and restrict, and for what reason. Only after carefully examining upon scientific data, and establishing a rightly controlled hunting administration, should advancement of the hunting season be argued.

At this moment WBSJ is demanding Nature Conservation Bureau, Environmental Agency, to openly explain its policy, and will, along with the Japanese Association for the Preservation of Birds and the Nature Conservation Society of Japan, continue to ask for the justification of hunting administration.

SOMETIMES IT SOUNDS RATHER DIFFERENT LET'S ROOT OUT MIST NET POACHING:

Every year, an estimated 3,000,000 birds are made victims of mist net poaching. It is caused from the spreading of the habit of eating Dusky Thrushes as a taste of autumn. In order to widely appeal to public not to eat wild birds, campaigns are made in various chapters of WBSJ, using pamphlets, posters, and public relations documents. In order to raise funds for the movement, *Dusky Thrush Telephone Cards* will be sold from October, worth more than 300 yen each.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION COLORED RINGS FOR USSR:

In cooperation with Yamashina Institute for Ornithology, WBSJ presented colored rings for cranes. With rings presented several years ago, it was found out that some Hooded Cranes and White-naped Cranes were migrating

between Soviet breeding spots and Japanese wintering spot, Izumi, Kagoshima Prefecture. This time 408 rings, red, numbered ones and ones of four different colors were presented to Soviet researchers. Please report to our Research Center if any ringed crane is observed.

GGAS AT BOUVERIE PRESERVE

The Valley of the Moon is one of the premier locations in Sonoma County for viewing spring wildflowers, and the Bouverie Audubon Preserve encompasses over 400 acres of pristine valley land. Over 350 species of flowering plants are found there, as well as 100 bird species. All members of GGAS are invited for a special walk on the preserve on **April 15**, which is at the height of the wildflower season. Trained docents will be leading small groups on the many trails for botanizing and birding. The walk will be from 9:30 to 1:30. To register, or for more information, please phone (707) 938-4554.

GGAS BOARD NOMINATIONS

It is that time again and a nominating committee was named at the meeting of GGAS's board of directors on February 27th. Call any one of the three members: Art Feinstein, Tom White or Bruce Walker. Their phone numbers are listed in the roster on the back cover. Either suggest a likely person who would be ready to help share in the responsibilities of the chapter, or suggest your own candidacy. Maybe it is your turn to help. Please make your call before April 20th so the committee can report at the April board meeting on the 24th.

LESLIE SALT CASES

Both cases went to trial before the US District Court Judge Charles A. Legge in San Francisco, and his *Opinion* was dated Sept. 19, 1988, with an *Amendment* issued Jan. 11, 1989.

The property involved is the Coyote Tract-Newark owned by Leslie Salt; it is 153 acres lying east of the new alignment of Thornton Ave. and between the new alignment of State Rt. 84 (Dumbarton Bridge approach) and Jarvis Ave. including its old alignment all the way to Thornton Ave. at Jarvis Landing on Newark Slough. The new connection of Jarvis to Thornton cuts off 10 acres of the 153 acres from continuity with the other 143; but both parts receive some tidal action along the western sectors via drain pipes that were put under Thornton Ave. when it was realigned and placed on new fill in the former unbroken salt crystallizer area. This was in the early 1980's. The National Wildlife Refuge acquired the parts of the set of crystallizers lying west of Thornton, and by 1984 had opened many of them to limited tidal action from Newark Slough, just to the south. The large unit next to Thornton Ave. was included in that reopening, but indirectly, via another Caltrans ditch at first and then (in 1984-5) with two tide gates placed where that ditch leaves the major old crystallizer to enter the fully open channel leading to Newark Slough at the southeast end of Coyote Hills. The NWR has **no pump*** in this whole system. All water that is present in their ponds arrives there by tide action plus whatever rain falls on it at the same time.

The lawsuits emanate from a jurisdictional dispute over the 153 acre property east of Thornton which was triggered by Leslie's excavation of a drainage ditch and debris basin in early

1985—but stopped by an Army Corps of Engineers Cease and Desist Order. At the rock bottom of essentials, Leslie claims the government has no jurisdiction over any of the property because it does not fall under the definition of "waters of the United States" or any "adjacent wetlands". The US Attorney (and the Corps through them) claim was the opposite, i.e., **that a large part*** of the property (I understand they did not claim all) is in fact wetlands under the Clean Water Act and thus protected from alteration of its wetlands character without obtaining a Corps permit (which Leslie did not ask for).

Three intensive studies of the property were conducted for Leslie Salt Co. in 1984-5; one on soils, one on plant species and vegetation distribution, and one on bird species, numbers, activities and habitat usage (the last by myself). Reports from all these studies as well as depositions and oral testimony from the consultants formed part of the testimony in the trial.

The property as a whole has at least four levels of "wetlands" nature: 1) a strip of grassy, weedy pastures along Jarvis Ave. and extending to the narrow south tip, but merging into type 2 in that part; 2) areas totalling perhaps 12+ acres close to Thornton Ave. that are dominated (more than 50% covered) by pickleweed—a wetlands indicator plant, which furthermore is increasing year by year in this area, plus another three acres or so of **usually wet pools*** on bare ground of type 3 to the north; 3) the large, mostly barren former salt crystallizer ponds (unused for many years), which were plowed once or twice in the 1983-5 period but which supported local populations of annual and some perennial pickleweed in early 1985; and 4) winter rain pools on parts of these crystallizers and in the old

excavated areas within type 1. Some of these rain pools persisted for three to four months and held populations of scores to hundreds of sandpipers, Black-bellied Plovers, avocets, stilts and dabbling ducks, and a few golden eyes and Buffleheads. One of the old excavations next to Jarvis Ave. was still wet to the surface (but lacked standing water) in July 1985 and had a dense mat of ditchgrass over the surface!

The *Opinion* states that **none*** of the property is wetlands falling under the jurisdiction of the Corps of Engineers by virtue of either the Rivers and Harbors Act or the Clean Water Act. In view of the aspects of the property summarized above and its location, separated from tidal areas just by the levee on which Thornton Ave. is placed and therefore "adjacent" to those "waters of the United States", I think the *Opinion* rendered in this case is faulty and should be appealed.

The *Opinion* as expressed by Judge Legge is particularly disturbing also because it would appear to be charting a whole new course of interpretation of the applicability of the Clean Water Act Regulations: namely, that unless 50% or more of a parcel of property under dispute is covered by wetlands-indicating vegetation (or is demonstrated by other means to have saturated soil conditions for most of the year), then **none*** of the parcel should be considered wetlands. If this approach is allowed to go unchallenged, many acres of wetlands will be lost just because they happen to be a minority part of some particular artificially bounded property.

The procedure for landowners/developers for the last 15 years or so has been to apply to the Corps (and to BCDC, where their property falls within its jurisdiction) for a permit to do their developments, the Corps then

determines how much and just what parts of the property are under their jurisdiction, and the proposed development (if any) or other alteration of those parts is either not done or is mitigated by the establishing of new wetlands somewhere else. And then we get into the policies of various agencies, and the recommended ones about mitigation in the BAAC Westlands Resolution. But the Legge approach would skip all that for any property having less than 50% of its area with characteristics bringing it under Corps jurisdiction.

Letters to encourage the US Attorney to file an appeal in these cases should be sent to:

Col. Galen Yanigahara, District Engineer
US Corps of Engineers
211 Main Street
San Francisco, CA 94105.

Additional comments might be made in letters about Judge Legge's repeated reference to the Clean Water Act Regulations not being applicable to the Coyote Tract-Newark because its wet portions (next to Thornton Ave. at least) because that way (according to testimony he says was brought out at the trial) **only because of the drain pipes*** placed under Thornton Ave. by Caltrans (without specific permission from Leslie), the water "backing-up" (the Judge's words) from the tidal flooding of the nearby National Wildlife Refuge property. I still think water flows down hill, not up hill, so the Leslie property end of those pipes is obviously below high tide level. The Judge's statement (twice in the document) that the property has "never been inundated by tides" is wrong, at least with respect to that western part along Thornton Ave. Finally, although I am not sure of the extent to which this aspect can be pushed legally under the Clean Water Act, there was **far more**

usage*; of the property by waterbirds, and for far longer periods than the judge's reference of "occasionally used by migratory birds".

HOWARD L. COGSWELL, Ph.D.

*These are significant points to include in letters.

VINTAGE BIRDS

Back by popular demand, George Peyton will again be host for a day of birding and wine-tasting on Saturday, May 13. Last year it was estimated that each participant averaged tasting between \$35 and \$40 of fine wines and champagnes.

This year we will be birding in the East Bay during the morning and will adjourn to George's home at the top of the Berkeley hills for our wine tasting. George has separate wine cellars for reds and whites, containing over 4,000 bottles. The cellars will be open for Vintage Birders to see. Everyone will be encouraged to provide a potluck dish; in the past we have been blessed with excellent foods to accompany the wines.

Anyone interested should send a donation of \$19.50 (per person) payable to GGAS to the office for a reservation. Specific information will be forwarded to registrants. For information phone 843-2222.

BACK YARD BIRDER

All birders, back yard variety included, will admit that timing and luck play key roles in sightings, both rare and ordinary. Some birds are just plain hard to spot: they're quiet, move little and are, sometimes, cryptically colored. So, I was glad when my kitten spotted a Brown Creeper, the first I'd seen in 20 years of living here. (My kitten is restricted to a 2nd story deck with no access to birds). I'm sure a Brown

Creeper has been here, but I'd missed it.

The Brown Creeper is unique as it is the only member of the tree-creeper family found in North America. The small brown and black-patterned bird resembles the rough texture of tree trunks. With its whitish breast it blends into its surroundings. For prying up bark, its bill is long, narrow and decurved. Since it spirals vertically up trees (the opposite of nuthatches, which climb downwards), it has strong, long toes and claws. Its tail feathers resemble those of woodpeckers—stiff pointed feathers to prop up the bird as it climbs. When it has scoured one tree for insects, it flies to the base of a nearby tree and repeats the process. Spiders, insects and insect eggs are all considered gourmet, but a Brown Creeper will also take seeds and suet at feeders. It is mainly a bird of forests and woods, but will glean walls of buildings for food.

The nest site is chosen by the pair of birds, male and female. A section of loose bark holds the nest, a loose cup made of moss and twigs, lined with feathers and soft plant down. The 3–9 eggs (most often 6) are kept warm by the female who is fed by her mate. The chicks are fed mostly animal matter and can creep upward as soon as they are mobile. The fledglings roost in a tight circle, heads to center, probably to keep warm.

By chance (once more), I was taking a walk when I heard an unfamiliar bird-song. I'm pretty good at "our" birds' songs, so I was tickled to learn the Brown Creeper's. It was high-pitched, clear and sweet, very melodious and seemed appropriate for a Brown Creeper. It also makes thin, lisping calls. Surely I would have heard these sounds before, so I can only surmise that it is not as vocal as most birds. For a shy bird, it is, paradoxically, quite

tame and has been known to light on a person standing still. I'm not so greedy as to ask for that to happen. I was content merely to have seen a Brown Creeper in my yard!

—MEG PAULETICH

CORRECTION: ABA ADDRESS

The American Birding Association thanks Meg Pauletich for mention in her Back Yard Birder in *The GULL* for February. They hasten to remind us that they moved two years ago, and correspondence sent to their old address will be returned as "unknown". They sent along an interesting catalog and if it would be useful you might write to them at:

ABA SALES AND SERVICES
P.O. Box 6599
Colorado Springs, CO 80934



SPRING BIRDING CLASSES IN SAN FRANCISCO

Part B of our Spring semester classes taught by **Joe Morlan** will be starting April 4, 5 and 6. The Tuesday classes are an introduction to birds and birding. Wednesday classes will cover gulls and terns, and Thursday classes will cover thrushes, thrashers and pipits. All classes will meet 7-9:30 p.m. at the Marina Middle School, 3500 Fillmore at Bay. Cost is \$40 for each seven-week course. Students need not take part A to enroll in part B classes. For more information call the school at 776-8247 or see *The GULL* for January.

TERN CLASS IN LAFAYETTE

A series of three classes will be given by **Dr. Stephen F. Bailey**, sponsored by the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society. He will introduce each of the Northern California species, covering distribution, seasonal status, habitat preferences, identification and plumages. The slide lecture will be interspersed with discussions using study skins. Classes will be Tuesdays, April 11, 18 and 25 from 7:30 to 9 pm. at the Stanley Intermediate School 3455 School St., Lafayette. Space is limited. Please register in advance by mailing a \$17 check made out to MDAS to Nora Bain, 32 Via Farallon, Orinda, CA 94563. Be sure to include your address so that we may return your check if the class is filled.

FREMONT

The Fremont Adult School and instructor **Alice Hoch** will offer a series of six session birding classes covering field identification, life styles, and ecology of local birds. Each class will visit a different birding spot. The class will meet Tuesday mornings from 9:30 to 12:30 with registration at 9:30 a.m. on the first day of the series in room 1 of the Fremont Adult School, 4700

Calaveras Ave., Fremont. Classes are limited in size. The class fee is \$45.

Tuesday, April 25 is the first class. Bring binoculars and be prepared to bird that morning. For information phone the school at 791-5841.

BIRDING MINES ROAD

Saturday, April 29 the Fremont Adult School (791-5841) will offer a birding trip along Mines Road in Livermore, noted for its wildflowers and interesting birds. The trip will be 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Bring binoculars, snack, lunch and beverage, and if possible scope and guide.

Students are responsible for their own transportation, but if desired, car-pools can be arranged for those who want them.

Participants must pre-register by Tuesday, April 25. By mail, or in person at the Fremont Adult School, 4700 Calaveras Ave., Fremont. Include at check for the fee of \$17.50 and a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the flagpole in front of the school on April 29. Students who wish to meet the group in the field should phone **Alice Hoch** (657-0475).

SEED SALE LEFTOVERS

This will be our last offer of bird seed until mid-September (the Fall Seed Sale). At this writing we have seven 20 lb. bags of the GAS mix and one 50 lb. bag. There are also two 20 lb. and one 50 lb. bag of Volkman. Come and get it while it's still available.

CHRISTMAS COUNT LEFTOVERS

We have a few of our stunning Christmas Count T-shirts left, both the Oakland version (Emperor Goose) and the San Francisco version (Western

Grebe). They are high quality, all cotton white short-sleeved shirts in sizes small through x-large. You need not have participated in the Counts to own one! These are on their way to becoming collector's items. Cost is \$11.00 including tax (add \$1.25 for postage please).

AND DON'T FORGET OUR WETLAND SERIES CARDS! They make wonderful gifts and aid in spreading the word about wetlands. Available at the office.

NEW IN THE LIBRARY

Swallows by Peter Tate and illustrated by Alan Harris, Witherby Ltd., London. Distributed by David & Charles, Inc. Pomfret, Vermont. 96p.

This is an attractively presented volume, illustrated with watercolors and drawings. It is an English birder's affectionate evocation of the their familiar Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*), known here as the Barn Swallow. It also requires the usual adjustment to Britishisms, "ringing" for banding, etc.; and different uses of names, their Blackbird is a relative of our Robin, similar in habits and song. It is interesting in that migration is to a part of the southern hemisphere unfamiliar to us. It recounts English folklore about the Swallow that is of interest.

GOLDEN TROUT WORKSHOP

Three one-week Golden Trout Workshops will again be held in the Sierra July 30 through August 19, 1989. Sponsored by members of the Eastern Sierra, San Bernardino Valley, San Fernando Valley and Santa Barbara chapters of The National Audubon Society, it is an informal natural history program. Hikes led by resident

naturalists will be offered. The Camp is located in the Golden Trout Wilderness, in the southern portion of the High Sierra, on the eastern watershed, **at an altitude of 10,000 ft.** For details write or call Cindi McKernan, 1230 Friar Lane, Redlands, CA 92373, (714) 973-7897. If interested, reservations should be made as soon as possible.

Scholarships: the Golden Trout Committee has announced a *David Gaines Sierra Scholarship* in memory of the man who did so much for so many in his work for Mono Lake. A one-week scholarship will be awarded for an individual attendance at the Camp. To apply, please submit a 300-word essay regarding your interest in the Sierra Nevada. Deadline is June 1. Apply to Cindi McKernan.

PCL BENEFIT AUCTION

The annual fund-raiser for the Planning Conservation League, a travel and recreation benefit auction to support its program and efforts will be held Wednesday evening, May 3 from 5:30 to 9 p.m. It will be held at Sacramento's new Sutter Square Galleria. There will be refreshments in profuse variety, silent auctions and fast-bidding bargain hunters out to nab unbelievable savings on dream vacations and super-holidays put up for auction. Last year 350 were in attendance, and it should attract double that number in 1989. For information phone Toni Roberts, (916) 448-1786.

DR. JANE GOODALL LECTURE

An event arranged as a fund-raiser for the Oakland Zoo will present a lecture by the noted chimpanzee-researcher, Dr. Jane Goodall, at the

Calvin Simmons Theatre of the Kaiser Convention Center, Oakland, 6 p.m. Saturday, April 22. Tickets are \$25 (with some \$8 third tier seating available). The event will be followed by a dinner at 8 p.m. in the Kaiser Center Ballroom for which preferred seating is \$100. For information phone the Oakland Zoo, 632-9525 Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

BAY AREA BIRD PHOTOGRAPHERS

Monthly meetings are at the Baylands. Information may be had by writing BABP, 1019 Loma Prieta Ct., Los Altos, CA 94022. The next meeting will be Wednesday, April 5 at 7:30 p.m. and member Mark Rauzon will present a program on birds of the central Pacific and its atolls.

The May meeting will be Wednesday, May 3 at the same time and place. Member Bill Ferguson will have a program on birding in the Falkland Islands.

TRAVEL COLUMN

from *Song Sparrow*, Feb. '89 Napa-Solano Audubon Society

Departing Morro Bay on *GAMBIT*, a 41-ft. sailboat, my husband and I headed out to sea. Our next landfall would be Santa Cruz Island, 150 miles away.

While we were cruising along about seven miles offshore, a Savannah Sparrow landed in our cockpit. He didn't appear to be scared or injured, but obviously was disoriented. What this land dweller was doing over open water perplexed us, but whatever his reason, had our vessel not come along, the cold Pacific Ocean would have eventually claimed him.

Welcoming the sparrow aboard, I scattered cracker crumbs on the deck. Within twenty minutes he was nibbling

away. The dry food brought out his thirst, but the bird preferred to dart across the dish of water rather than sip from it. Unknowingly, the bird gulped water from a small puddle of salt spray, then shook his head, as if in disgust at the briny taste.

Still in need of thirst-quenching fresh water, the bird searched every crack and crevice on the deck until he stumbled upon a pocket of fresh water trapped in the folds of a tarp. The boat had been hosed down with fresh water before leaving Morrow Bay. Our friend was a survivor.

By four o'clock that afternoon the sparrow had become rather friendly, and occasionally let me hand feed him. We were pals. While the autopilot steered the board, I stretched out on deck to take a quick snooze. The sparrow and I dozed off, sharing the same cushion.

By sunset the gentle breeze had increased and was howling 28 knots. *GAMBIT* was speeding along like a roller coaster, climbing the steep swells then wooshing down the crest. The motion didn't seem to bother the sparrow. However, as dusk set in the bird was seriously looking for a quiet, sheltered place to sleep. He needed some place that protected him from the cold, damp, windy elements on *GAMBIT*'s topside.

Being observant, the bird watched my husband go below into the cabin to light the kerosene lantern. The bird followed. The cozy, warm, dry interior obviously pleased the bird and he made himself at home. He flitted around the gally counters, through the sink, over the bunks, across the dinette, up and over the bookshelves, and ended his exploration by landing upon a wall-mounted fan (turned off, of course). This is where he decided to roost for the night. Our tired passenger fluffed up his feathers, closed his eyes and

spent the entire lumpy, lurching, noisy night at sea, glued to the fan moving nary an inch.

The following dawn when I awoke from my off-watch, I noticed the sparrow was not on the fan. Then I heard a "tsit-tsit chirp" and looking across the cabin I saw movement. Pacing across the placemats was a hungry sparrow. Everybody, even the sparrow, was served shredded wheat that morning.

"Land ho", my husband shouted from the bow, as the distant peaks on Santa Cruz Island poked through the morning mist. Nearing the island an hour later, the seas flattened and the ocean air carried traces of fragrant earth smells. The sparrow appeared on deck.

As we made preparation to anchor at Willow's Cove, a lovely, unspoiled spot surrounded by rolling hills blanketed with grasslands and island oak, the sparrow took on a confident new look. For a short time the bird stood motionless on the stern. Then, 24 hours after his boarding, when neither of us was looking, he flew away.

—LYNNE ORLOFF-JONES

Continued from page 51

Saturday, April 8—First Annual-Point Reyes National Seashore All-day Spring Birding Blitz. (Joint activity: GGAS/Nat. Park Service.) Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Five Brooks Trail-head parking lot, approximately five miles south of Olema on Hwy. 1. We will bird Five Brooks Pond Area, Limantour Split, Drakes Beach, Chimney Rock, Point Reyes, ending at Bear Valley for a multi-habitat trip. Last October this trip recorded 100 species. This time we will try to beat the record.

Bring water, food, and layer clothes for variable weather. Leader: Leon Abrams 459-6366 (work), 843-4107 (home). (✓).

ANNUAL MEETING

You Are Cordially Invited . . .

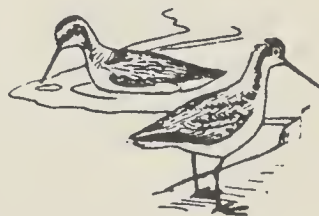
We're having an open-house brunch **Sunday April 30**, from 11 to 1 to welcome you to our new office at 1250 Addison in Berkeley. Come on down! This will be our annual membership meeting, at which the results of the Bird-a-thon will be announced. Bring your binoculars for birding in our own sanctuary along the restored Strawberry Creek. Browse our selection of used books. You may even want to pick up a bag of birdseed. We'll provide coffee, tea, juice, muffins, scones, coffee cakes. Above all, we want you to feel welcome at your chapter office, so that you will return for information, for support, or for just a friendly chat.

HERE AT LAST . . . THE BENEFIT DRAWING

Though we had to part with it, the time is finally here when the reknown **WETLAND** quilt will be placed in the arms of a new owner! It could still be one of you!! Tickets will be available through the evening of the Drawing. That event will take place at the general meeting, Thursday, April 13, 7:30 p.m. George Peyton's slides and delivering our fine prizes should combine to provide a stimulating evening. Join us at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 the Alameda, Berkeley.

MURPHY'S MOB

Come one, come all, **all you many observers!** The more, the merrier! Don't have a group for **BIRDATHON '89?** Join us, the group that makes up for the number of bird species by having the largest group of birders. Our theory is: let the **Not-So-Oldsquaws** prove they can outbird the men. We don't care if Alan Hopkins' **California Thrashers** gets 200 species, as claimed. Murphy's Mob aims to raise the most money by having the most birders and the most pledges, not to mention that we'll have the most fun. The Mob will meet at **7:30 am., Saturday April 15**, at the end of Van Ness in Aquatic Park in S.F. We'll bird until 6:30 p.m. at which time we'll adjourn to Celia's Mexican Restaurant for margaritas, frijoles, and fun. To participate, we suggest that each birder gather or pledge 25¢ per bird, and since 100 species is guaranteed, you'll raise \$25 for a worthy cause. Call Barbara at the office to confirm (843-2222).



GIFTS and BEQUESTS

FOR GGAS

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Matt Snow

FROM THE ESTATE OF

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The Hubbard Family

Grace Victoria Haw

The Society welcomes gifts in general or gifts in honor of or in memory of relatives and friends. Such gifts will be used as specified by the donor or, if unspecified, at the discretion of the GGAS Board of Directors. This includes their use for general GGAS activities or for special programs of the Society including Audubon Canyon Ranch of which GGAS is a sponsor. Please send your gift in the form of a check made out to Golden Gate Audubon Society, 1250 Addison St., #107B, Berkeley, CA 94702. All gifts are tax deductible. The Society is also appreciative of any bequests. Such bequests should specify as recipient the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. All gifts, donations and bequests will be acknowledged in *The Gull* as well as personally on behalf of the Society by the Secretary.

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PLEDGE FORM

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON BIRD-A-THON

YES, I want to help Golden Gate
Audubon and Mono Lake!

_____ I pledge to sponsor one (or more)
of the following teams at the rate
of \$_____ per species.

- _____ 'Not So Oldsquaws'
_____ 'California Thrashers'
_____ 'Red-eyed Vireos'
_____ 'Nashville Warblers'
_____ 'Gray Jays'
_____ 'Murphy's Mob'
_____ 'Purple Martins'
_____ 'Cheep T'rills'

_____ I would like to lead my OWN
team and gather pledges totalling
at least \$1.00 per species.



(mail to GGAS office)

Name _____
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Mail for all individuals listed above should be sent to GGAS office.

Send address changes to office promptly; Post office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national \$30 per year (individual); \$38 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to join, make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$8 per year; single issues \$1. High school and college student membership \$18 per year. Senior citizen individual \$21, senior citizen family \$23. Associate Membership in Golden Gate Audubon Society, \$10 per year.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917,
and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.

The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month, and July 15th for September issue.